

**From:** [OMEALY Mikell](#)  
**To:** [Jeremy\\_Buck@fws.gov](mailto:Jeremy_Buck@fws.gov); [Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Cc:** [Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PH meeting facilitation  
**Date:** 04/14/2006 08:47 AM

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I agree completely with your thoughts on this, Jeremy. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: [Jeremy\\_Buck@fws.gov](mailto:Jeremy_Buck@fws.gov) [mailto:[Jeremy\\_Buck@fws.gov](mailto:Jeremy_Buck@fws.gov)]  
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2006 2:44 PM  
To: [Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov)  
Cc: [blischke.eric@epa.gov](mailto:blischke.eric@epa.gov); OMEALY Mikell  
Subject: Re: PH meeting facilitation

Good. I agree. Thank you.

I would only add that if EI does not feel like they are being heard, then they need to keep a record of what they think the bias is during the meetings and report them to you (as well as discuss them with the facilitator).

It is unfortunate that we seem to have the opportunity to work with an excellent facilitator that only one of the party's does not favor, and in theory all party's at the table should agree on the facilitator for a successful meeting. We will still need to ensure that EI's positions during these meetings are respected (and in many cases EI puts forth very helpful suggestions and thought provoking ideas), as I do not wish to see this process break down. -jeremy

[Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov)  
[ail.epa.gov](mailto:ail.epa.gov) To:  
[audiehuber@ctuir.com](mailto:audiehuber@ctuir.com), [ANDERSON.Jim@deq.state.or.us](mailto:ANDERSON.Jim@deq.state.or.us),  
[cunninghame@gorge.net](mailto:cunninghame@gorge.net),  
[Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov), [exec@envintl.com](mailto:exec@envintl.com),  
[04/13/2006 02:14](mailto:04/13/2006 02:14) [howp@critfc.org](mailto:howp@critfc.org),  
[jean.lee@envintl.com](mailto:jean.lee@envintl.com), [jeremy\\_buck@fws.gov](mailto:jeremy_buck@fws.gov),  
[PM](mailto:PM)  
[Smith.Judy@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Smith.Judy@epamail.epa.gov), [Kawabata.Sylvia@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Kawabata.Sylvia@epamail.epa.gov),  
  
[Rick.J.Kepler@STATE.OR.US](mailto:Rick.J.Kepler@STATE.OR.US), [tomd@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:tomd@ctsi.nsn.us),  
[Sheldrake.Sean@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Sheldrake.Sean@epamail.epa.gov),  
  
[Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov), [MCCLINCY.Matt@deq.state.or.us](mailto:MCCLINCY.Matt@deq.state.or.us),  
  
[peterson.jennifer@deq.state.or.us](mailto:peterson.jennifer@deq.state.or.us), [poulsen.mike@deq.state.or.us](mailto:poulsen.mike@deq.state.or.us),  
  
[Fuentes.Rene@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Fuentes.Rene@epamail.epa.gov), [Black.Curt@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Black.Curt@epamail.epa.gov),  
[Robert.Neely@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Neely@noaa.gov), [emadden@ecoisp.com](mailto:emadden@ecoisp.com),  
[Goulet.Joe@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Goulet.Joe@epamail.epa.gov), [Davoli.Dana@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Davoli.Dana@epamail.epa.gov),  
[jeff.baker@grandronde.org](mailto:jeff.baker@grandronde.org), [Shephard.Burt@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Shephard.Burt@epamail.epa.gov), OMEALY Mikell  
  
<[OMEALY.Mikell@deq.state.or.us](mailto:OMEALY.Mikell@deq.state.or.us)>, [Koch.Kristine@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Koch.Kristine@epamail.epa.gov),  
[rose@yakama.com](mailto:rose@yakama.com)  
  
[Opalski.Dan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Opalski.Dan@epamail.epa.gov) cc:  
  
Subject: PH meeting  
  
facilitation

As a follow-up to the "meeting facilitation" discussion our internal Eco Framework meeting last week in Centralia and subsequent conversations with and input from individual project team members, EPA is providing our perspective and direction to the project team on meeting facilitation.

Eric and I requested of DEQ that Mikell O'Mealy facilitate our framework meeting in Centralia and continue in that role during the next couple of months while we work through the framework issues with the LWG. Mikell is an experienced facilitator with strong team leadership skills, and her work on the project thus far has enhanced our ability to reach important outcomes for the project. We fully support Mikell's role and believe that her attendance and facilitation of meetings benefits the project as a whole. The goal, and our experience, is that having Mikell facilitate our meetings enhances the productivity of our meetings, allows us to capture key ideas and areas of agreement/disagreement and

provides a critical summary of the conclusions reached and action items.

There have been some concerns raised by EI about Mikell's neutrality when acting in the facilitator role. In our view, accusations that Mikell does not act in a neutral capacity are unfounded, and we are very concerned about the disruptive effects this is having on our "team" and our progress at this critical time in the project.

Going forward, Eric and I will continue to make decisions about which of our meetings will be facilitated, and we appreciate Mikell's willingness to continue to serve as our facilitator. In general, we believe that having a facilitator at key meetings is necessary to ensure that our meetings remain productive. It is our desire to reach consensus on significant issues when possible, but the overall objective is to ensure participation in EPA's decision-making process. Some meetings will need more formal facilitation to accomplish this, others may not. It should also go without saying that, regardless of our disagreements, we are all expected to work together in a respectful and professional manner.

Attached are the principles and process that we will be using for future PH meetings.

(See attached file: april 10th facilitation.doc)(See attached file: april 10th facilitation.doc)